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HISTORY OF THE JOINT STRATEGIC TARGET PLANNING STAFF:  
PREPARATION OF SIOP-63

DOWNGRADED AT 12 YEAR  
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COPY 1A

HISTORY & RESEARCH DIVISION  
HEADQUARTERS STRATEGIC AIR COMMAND  
JANUARY 1964

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Authority DOD 5200.1-2

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## PREFACE

This volume is the second prepared by the SAC History & Research Division covering the activities of the Joint Strategic Target Planning Staff located at Headquarters SAC, Offutt AFB, Nebraska. The historian has emphasized development of targeting policies and the actions taken in preparing the plan. The main portion of the narrative is concerned with appraisals of SIOP-62 methodology and its relevancy to the next plan, war gaming, the new guidance for SIOP-63, and preparation of the plan. Discussion of the mechanics of the SIOP and what it is intended to do has been kept as general as possible. The SIOP, itself a permanent document, and exhibits accompanying the narrative furnish greater detail should the reader wish it. Appendix I is a short statement on JSTPS organization, included for the sake of continuity, which did not fit conveniently into the main narrative. Appendix II summarizes formal disagreements which arose within the staff during the preparation of the plan and what was done to resolve them. An explanation of some of the more esoteric terminology of nuclear targeting follows the appendices. Documents identified as exhibits (Ex \_\_\_) are on file in the History & Research Division. In accordance with paragraph 3b, JAI 210-1, this history contains no information categorized as extremely sensitive (ESI).

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Background

One astute observer of the American political scene has characterized the "grand strategy" of the Kennedy Administration as the search for more freedom of action in response to the challenges posed by the Soviet Union: the United States must be free to choose rather than to have the choice foreordained by a rigid policy. "What you need is . . . control, flexibility, a choice . . .," the President has been quoted as saying.<sup>1</sup> (U)

The seriousness with which the new administration regarded this search for more freedom of action was nowhere more evident than in its reappraisal of defense policies conducted in early 1961 by the new Secretary of Defense, Robert McNamara. In general, the administration felt past plans for general war were too rigidly geared to a massive retaliation to surprise attack. It therefore sought means to expand the latitude of possible reactions to fit the wide range of circumstances in which conflict could be initiated. Explaining the germinating strategy of controlled response to a NATO ministerial meeting in 1962, Secretary McNamara said, "We believe that the combination of our nuclear superiority and a strategy of controlled response gives us hope of minimizing damage in the event we have to fulfill our pledge."<sup>2</sup> (TS)

This was bound to have a direct impact on the preparation of the nation's integrated operational plan for strategic forces. The guidance eventually received for SIOP-63, with its "tasks" and "options,"

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represented the administration's attempt to put its philosophy into practice. Interpretation and application of this guidance (markedly changed from instructions for SIOP-62) by the Joint Strategic Target Planning Staff constitutes the main thread of this narrative.\* (S)

Reappraisal of Strategy

The SIOP-62, completed in December 1960 and put into effect 1 April 1961, was generally recognized as the best plan that could have been prepared within the short time (four months) available. But the first plan was not yet in effect when it came under the scrutiny and criticism of Dr. G. B. Kistiakowsky, President Eisenhower's Special Assistant for Science and Technology. Although he believed it to be faithful to directives and similar in outline to earlier SAC plans, certain directives and procedures required review for the future. [

\* The JSTPS organization remained unchanged during the period under consideration; it is discussed in Appendix I.

In one of his last memos to the JCS, the outgoing Secretary of Defense of the Eisenhower Administration, Thomas Gates, cautioned that the plan should not be allowed to stagnate. He said: ". . . further actions should be initiated leading to continued refinement of strategic planning [

] His successor, Secretary McNamara, also felt a review of procedures was in order, and in March 1961 instructed the JCS to review the organization and planning of JSTPS.<sup>5</sup> (TS)

The Joint Chiefs had already begun to solicit comments and recommendations for the future from the CINCs and the services.<sup>6</sup> [

The Army, Navy, CINCLANT, and CINCPAC complained of the [ ] for in SIOP-62. They believed that a change was required in [ ]

[ ] These same four also believed that procedures for achieving

The three services, CINCPAC, CINCLANT, and DSTP were in agreement that more research was required on how to compute [

] At the root of this problem was the divergency of opinion among scientists regarding criteria to use in establishing probable [

] Another recommendation, by the Navy, was that the

] General Power, as DSTP, agreed with the need for some changes based on experience; he had earlier informed the JCS that planning factors used in preparing the first plan would be reviewed and modified as required when preparing the second.<sup>8</sup> He did, however, consider the SIOP-62 guidance sufficient for use in preparing the next plan.<sup>9</sup> (TS)



But fundamental changes in nuclear targeting policy were gestating within the Department of Defense in early 1961 which would eventually be reflected in the guidance for SIOP-63. The first detailed exposition of the administration's strategic thinking for general war went out from the JCS to the unified and specified commands for comment in May 1962. A message in two parts, it quoted a policy memo prepared for the Chairman of the JCS by Deputy Secretary of Defense Roswell Gilpatric and an attached draft of a proposed new basic national security policy prepared in the Secretary of Defense's office. [The theme followed earlier administration statements calling for greater flexibility in U.S. nuclear strategy. The essence of this lengthy document was that U.S. plans and programs needed a wider range of alternatives or options to meet the various forms a thermonuclear war could take. The CINCs and the DSTP were asked for their opinions on what actions in the near and far term could be taken to widen the latitude of our response. Of particular interest to Secretary McNamara and Deputy Secretary Gilpatric were [

[

The CINCs and DSTP commented at length to the JCS, who in turn replied to the Secretary of Defense. Their responses mirrored the attitudes of men who bore heavy responsibilities for direct command of

strategic forces and who were intimate with the vast complexities of operating these forces. They agreed that more work was needed to increase flexibility and options to nuclear war, indeed some steps had already been taken, but they also urged caution lest our strategic plans outstrip our capability to put them into practice. All agreed that force survival must be enhanced by improving weapon systems, but until sufficient invulnerability had been achieved by the

The JCS assured the Secretary of Defense that better means for controlling nuclear forces were being "pursued vigorously" as better command

and control procedures were developed. Every effort would be made to incorporate flexibility and selectivity into SIOP-63.<sup>13</sup> (TS)

A period of reappraisal of existing procedures and preparation of JCS directed studies in depth on certain planning factors\* began soon after acceptance of the first plan in December 1960 and continued into the spring and summer of 1961. The studies represented proposed improvements in methods to be used in developing the next plan, depending of course on guidance furnished by the JCS.<sup>14</sup> (U)

In forwarding his study on methodology in late June, General Power assured the Chiefs that additional "improvements and refinements" had been completed and others were being contemplated for SIOP-63.<sup>15</sup> There was not unanimity within the JSTPS on this point, however. Both the CINCLANT and CINCPAC representatives believed that, in fact, improved methodology had not been developed, and that for all practical purposes the methods for 1963 remained those of 1962. The new plan would contain the defects of the old. [They criticized the system used for SIOP-

62 because it produced a plan which contemplated attacks on too large a target system, which was too destructive, which underestimated weapons effects, and which gave enemy forces a high probability of success

\* The staff was directed to study methodology for development of SIOP-63, damage criteria, assurance of delivery criteria, improvements in the target point value system, additional flexibility, and several other areas (See SM-390-61, Memo for DSTP from JCS, "Actions . . . Directed Toward Improving the Next NSTL/SIOP," 1 Apr 61, B-78744).  
(S)

while giving SIOP forces a low probability of success. Requirements for SIOP-62 were termed as having been "unrealistic" and "far in excess" of what was required.<sup>16</sup> (TS)

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Similarly, the CINCPAC representative criticized the methodology of SIOP-62 and protested its continued use in SIOP-63. To him, except in minor instances, procedures remained unchanged. The result would be a conservative plan which gave the enemy every advantage, while downgrading U.S. capabilities. [If the philosophy of SIOP-62 continued, the next plan would be a capabilities plan which found use for all forces and weapons made available and committed them to [ ]]

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He called for "a searching analysis of methodology and philosophy" before the next plan was produced.<sup>18</sup> (TS)

General Power held a different opinion of the efficacy of SIOP-62 methodology. He had told the JCS in February 1961 that he considered existing guidance adequate for use in SIOP-63.<sup>19</sup> This, as has been mentioned, was reiterated in the methodology study of 23 June.<sup>20</sup> And in July he told the JCS that should new guidance not be forthcoming by 1 August, planning could proceed using the old directions.<sup>21</sup> Thus, it was clear that the Director saw no need to overhaul the techniques used in producing SIOP-62, although many planning factors would have to be reviewed to determine their continued validity and to modify them based on experience and new information.<sup>22</sup> (S)

Although early in 1961 the JSTPS was already at work examining its procedures and preparing for the next plan, attention could not be diverted entirely from the previous plan. The SIOP was dynamic in nature. Although when completed it represented the most accurate possible current listing of targets and weapon systems available to attack them, subsequent changes in forces, force posture, intelligence, and extension of the plan beyond the time when the next plan should have become effective required numerous alterations to annexes throughout the life of the plan.<sup>23</sup> (S)

War Gaming SIOP-62

Soon after SIOP-62 was accepted by the JCS, plans began to take shape in the JSTPS for analyzing it by a process of war gaming\* using a wide variety of conditions under which it might be implemented. On 5 December 1960 General Power ordered the war game of SIOP forces, assigning Major General C. M. Eisenhart, SIOP Division Chief, to direct the work. The broad objectives were to evaluate the effectiveness of SIOP-62, to form a basis for modifying future SIOPs, and to educate SIOP planners. A manual or hand game (pitting opposing decision teams against each other under the rule of a control group) and a computer or simulation game (using a mathematical model suited for random play) were to be played. Work within the SIOP Division continued into the spring and summer of 1961: differences of opinion on the numerous assumptions and ground rules to be used in the game were to be resolved by the Policy Committee. In instances where members could not agree, the DSIP decided.<sup>24</sup> ~~(S-NOFORN)~~

Abruptly in early August, however, with the war game process well along, the picture changed entirely. The JSTPS received from the Chief

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\* War game is defined as an operational research technique employing a formalized representation of a military or politico-military operation, conducted according to preset rules of play, using plausible planning factors, for the purpose of determining a range of possible outcomes to the conflict under study. Such games are analytical, as distinguished from field, fleet, or command post exercises. This definition is from JCSM 1261-61, from JCS to DSIP et al., "Policy on War Gaming of Joint Plans," 22 Nov 61. (8)

of Naval Operations results of a war game the Navy had conducted ("Report of Simulation Investigation SIOP-62"). The impact of the study was not so much in its conclusions, although the DSTP believed them invalid because of the unrealistic assumptions used,<sup>25</sup> but in its effect on other games. [General Power complained there had been a possible compromise of the general war plan due to the participation in the CNO game of civilian organizations not normally privy to such sensitive information as strengths and weaknesses of U.S. forces, tactics, and penetration aids.<sup>26</sup>] He consequently stopped all JSTPS hand games and had the information destroyed. He also asked the JCS to request other commands to cease games involving SAC forces.<sup>27</sup> ~~(TS)~~

The Navy was confident that, in fact, no compromise had taken place,<sup>28</sup> but the affair resulted in the JCS preparing detailed guidance on future policy.<sup>29</sup> Henceforth, no civilian contractors would be permitted to participate in war games of current plans,<sup>30</sup> but the Chiefs would not prohibit commanders from evaluating parts of plans in which they had direct interest.<sup>31</sup> Results of the JCS study arrived in November as detailed guidance on future war gaming activities. Games would henceforth be divided into four categories:<sup>32</sup> ~~(TS)~~

Category A -- Those of joint war plans upon which national security depended. ~~(TS)~~

Category B -- Those of crisis situations which might involve U.S. in limited war or eventually general war. ~~(TS)~~

Category C -- Those of global strategies (political, economic, psychological, scientific, military and

paramilitary) that affected the power positions in the Free World confrontation with the Sino-Soviet Bloc.  
(TS)

Category D -- Those other than the three above. ~~(TS)~~

The JCS specified that Category A games would be conducted by commanders of unified and specified commands and DSFP. The games would be used to check procedural plans and use of forces, to discover weaknesses in current or subsequent plans, and to assist the JCS in its review of the plan and its capability.<sup>33</sup> ~~(TS)~~

The results of the completed computer evaluation of SIOP-62 were much more modest than early plans had called for. An analysis of the effects of various levels of damage (destruction before launch or DBL) on SIOP forces was completed late in 1961 and results published in two technical memorandums. Two postures, one-third and one-half alert, were considered. General conclusions indicated destruction by enemy action was the most important factor of all those contributing to vehicle degradation before launch. An increase in forces on alert increased the number of weapons ultimately delivered. It was concluded that DBL factors should be used to achieve more accurate statistics on expected weapon deliveries for a strategic situation in which the force is exposed to attack before launch, although caution was urged in attempting to arrive at specific DBL factors for use in future games. Because factors were based on broad assumptions developed in varying degrees, future analysis of DBL should, according to the study, cover a wide range of possible situations.<sup>34</sup> ~~(TS)~~



It appeared at the time research was completed on this study that analysis of SIOP-63 would be more complete and detailed than that of SIOP-62. In April 1962 JCS directed DSTP to conduct a comprehensive war game of the 63 plan.<sup>35</sup> The JSTPS reported it would.<sup>36</sup> Further attention will be given to this game and its results in the next history of the staff covering preparation of SIOP-64. ~~(TS)~~

#### SIOP-63 Guidance

All members of the Target Staff agreed that they did not want conditions caused by the short period of time available for producing SIOP-62 to be repeated during preparation of the next plan. More time was needed for study and interpretation of guidance.<sup>37</sup> As early as December 1960 the staff had decided that guidance must reach them by 1 August for SIOP-63 to be completed by 1 July 1962. With the 1 August date, force application could begin 15 September, the plan could be submitted for review and approval on 1 February, JCS would transmit the plan to unified and specified commanders and they would begin preparing supporting plans 1 April, and SIOP-63 would become effective 1 July.<sup>38</sup> Later, however, with the 1 August date approaching and having received no guidance, General Power wanted to continue with the old instructions,<sup>39</sup> but the JCS said it was preparing the new guidance and wanted to get it out by that date, although it might be one or two weeks late.<sup>40</sup> This proved to be a highly optimistic estimate -- guidance did not arrive until 30 October.<sup>41</sup> ~~(S)~~

It was apparent immediately to planners as they studied the new guidance that it was much more detailed than the directions for SIOP-

62. [

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\* It was acknowledged that the chances for using this option were remote, so forces were to be programmed for it as a last priority. General Lyman Lemnitzer, Chairman of the JCS, was reported as very critical of this option and doubted it would ever be executed. (Memo for DSTP, from Brig Gen W. R. Peers, JCSLG, "Questions and Comments by JCS During JCSLG Fourth Status Briefing on SIOP-63," 6 Jun 62.)

(TS)

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Preparing the Plan

It was clear to JSTPS planners that to satisfy the requirements of the JCS guidance would mean preparing a more complex plan with greater flexibility and discrimination than was necessary in 1962.<sup>48</sup> Early estimates reckoned that it would take twice as long to prepare as its predecessor.<sup>49</sup> The schedule of preparation was revised. Now force application would begin 15 January 1962 and be completed 2 April. The JCS would be briefed on the plan 15 April, with the remaining time until 1 July, when the plan went into effect, taken up with preparation

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and distribution of the plan and its annexes. However, by early January it was realized that 1 July was too optimistic and the effective date was changed to 1 August.<sup>50</sup> (S)

The two months following receipt of JCS instructions were occupied with determining the exact meaning of the general statements in the guidance, and based on this interpretation, hammering out within the Policy Committee, and in conferences with planners from the commands concerned, agreements on policies for developing the 1963 plan.<sup>51</sup> (S)

With agreements reached and differences resolved, work could begin in earnest on the plan itself. The SIOP-63, like its predecessor, had two basic elements: targets and forces to attack them. The following discussion will trace the steps in preparing the SIOP. It seems appropriate to begin with the target list.\* (S)

\* From this procedure it should not be concluded that the list was prepared before any work on force application began. Work on many aspects of these two principal portions of the plan went on simultaneously. (U)

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Following is a summary of delivery vehicles and weapons committed to the plan.\* The August figure shows capability when the plan went into effect, and the December 1962 figure shows expected growth. Commitment figures are broken out by type of delivery system and weapons by command.<sup>56</sup> (TS)

Delivery Vehicle Summary

	August 1962			December 1962		
	Alert	Non-Alert	Total	Alert	Non-Alert	Total
Ballistic Missiles	207	40	247	277	48	325
Cruise Missiles	32	0	32	36	0	36
Aircraft	730	982	1712	748	1019	1767
Total	969	1033	1991	1061	1067	2128

Weapons Delivered by Committed Forces

1661	1217	2878	1869	1267	3136
80	106	186	80	106	186
155	200	355	159	230	389
1896	1523	3419	2108	1603	3711

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These sheets  
were eventually distributed as Annex F to the SIOP-63.<sup>60</sup> (S)

While force application drew to a close, steps were also being taken to present the finished plan to the JCS and the Secretary of Defense for approval. Throughout the preparation of SIOP-63 the JCS and other interested agencies had been kept informed of progress by the Joint Chiefs of Staff Liaison Group (JCSLG) to the JSPPS. The

Liaison group, headed by Brigadier General W. R. Peers (USA),\* thus freed JSTPS planners from briefing responsibilities which they had found burdensome during preparation of SIOP-62.<sup>61</sup> These status briefings were augmented from time to time by data submitted on tape, and then just before final review of the completed plan, advance copies of SIOP-63 were sent to the JCS for review. By early June the chief of the JCSIG was confident that the JCS was familiar with the plan and would be "highly receptive" to JSTPS presentations.<sup>62</sup> Earlier, he had told the JCS: "To my mind, the JSTPS has made a great effort to insure that they have followed the Guidance [SM-1162-61], and it is the considered opinion of the Liaison Group that SIOP-63 achieves the objectives of the Guidance and is in conformance with it . . . ." <sup>63</sup> (S)

One aspect of JCS guidance which created a problem for planners, however, and one which they were not able to conform to in all cases,

\* Brigadier General Peers, formerly Chief of Staff for Army Intelligence, succeeded Brigadier General B. E. Spivy as Chief, JCSIG, on 5 January 1962. (DASO 313, 22 Dec 61; see also his biography in documents volume.) (U)

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The Joint Chiefs completed two days of briefings at Offutt AFB on 19 June by approving SIOP-63 to become effective 1 August. The plan was also presented in part to Secretary of Defense McNamara on 20

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June.<sup>71</sup> The Secretary later praised General Power and his staff for their work.<sup>72</sup> (U)

The plan was prepared in about eight months from receipt of guidance to the briefing of the JCS and the Secretary of Defense on the completed plan. Had more time been available, the process probably would have followed a more orderly and less hectic pace. But since it was not, and since no additional increase in personnel was authorized, that time-honored military expedient of expanding the working day became a necessary and routine procedure. (TS)

Summary

The SIOP-63 was accepted without revision by the JCS and the Secretary of Defense; thus they affirmed that it fulfilled their wishes as set down in the guidance. The flexibility and provisions for controlled response to general war provided for in the plan represented the Kennedy Administration's most significant contribution to nuclear

\* 1712 aircraft were committed to the plan in August 1962, see p 21.  
(TS)

strategy to date. As mentioned earlier, SIOP-62 had certain, if limited, features of

The former deputy director of the JSTPS, Vice Admiral E. N. Parker,\* doubted that they could be relied upon under conditions of nuclear attack, and preferred to put his trust in the operational commander to

\* Admiral Parker was succeeded by Vice Admiral Roy Lee Johnson on 10 January 1962. Before his assignment to the JSTPS, Admiral Johnson was Assistant Chief of Naval Operations for Plans and Policies (BUPERS Orders 113957, 27 Dec 61; See also biography in document volume). Admiral Parker, upon his transfer, became Assistant Director, Weapons Evaluation and Control Bureau, United States Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. (U)



do his best with what he had.<sup>76</sup> His successor to the deputy directorship acknowledged existing communications to be a weakness, but he emphasized the extensive efforts by the services to correct deficiencies by hardening and redundancy.<sup>77</sup> Clearly, much remained to be done in making the force and its command and control communications more effective under the various conditions in which conflict could be initiated. Progress here would give operational commanders increased confidence in plans for centralized control and flexible application of nuclear strike forces in general war. (TS)

## Appendix I

## THE JSTPS ORGANIZATION

Brought together at Headquarters SAC late in the summer of 1960 under the direction of General Thomas S. Power, the Joint Strategic Target Planning Staff was an inter-service group of intelligence and operations planning specialists. From its inception, care was taken to keep the staff small, with a nucleus of permanently assigned officers and enlisted men supported by SAC personnel serving in a dual capacity.<sup>78</sup> (U)

Although the staff increased somewhat during the hurried preparation of the first plan (from 269 in September 1960 to 302 in January 1961), when the plan was completed General Power acted to cut the staff to 186, thus tailoring it to the continuing work of keeping the SIOP and NSTL up to date.<sup>79</sup> The JCS agreed with this organizational strength on 14 June 1961.<sup>80</sup> (U)

During the preparation of SIOP-63 there was no change in the staff's Joint Table of Distribution; it remained 186 officers and enlisted men positions with 16 of 34 key positions (all in NSTL Division) identified as no service specified, i.e., they were to be filled by the best qualified officer available regardless of service affiliation.<sup>81</sup> Of the 186 total, 129 were Air Force (including SAC) and 57 were from the other services (Army, Navy, and Marine Corps).<sup>82</sup> Chances that the staff would increase in the future were slim. As pointed out by the

Deputy Director, the successful preparation of the plan tended to work against consideration of increased strength, since any addition would have to be related to a deficiency in the plan.<sup>82</sup> (U)

Appendix II

RESOLUTION OF DISAGREEMENTS WITHIN JSTPS  
CONCERNING PLANNING FACTORS

I Missile Warhead Dud Factors

At the 39th Policy Committee Meeting, 25 August 1961, the Weapon Systems Reliability Committee (a working committee having JSTPS and CINCRep representation) presented a committee position that a [

~~(TS-NOFORN)~~

II Bomb Reliability

Also presented at the 39th Policy Committee meeting by the Weapon Systems Reliability Committee, this issue involved [

### III Aircraft Bombing Circular Error Probable (CEP)

The Weapon Systems Reliability Committee also presented at the 38th Policy Committee meeting the unresolved issue of what CEP factor to use for certain all weather aircraft. [

[The DSTP, in the 41st Policy Committee meeting of 2 November, decided the CEPs proposed by the using commands would be used. ~~(TS-NOFORN)~~

### IV Unknown Defenses Factor

The Penetration Tactics Committee (composed of representatives from JSTPS and the CINCs) could not present a unanimous opinion on what factors to use in planning for destruction of weapon systems by unknown defenses. In SIOP-62 a factor of [

Also presented in the 38th Policy Committee meeting by the Penetrations Tactics Committee as unresolved within the Committee was whether or not to use a factor for [

] The DSTP, in the 41st Policy Committee meeting, decided that because of the difficulty of determining an accurate factor, it would not be used. ~~(TS-NOFORN)~~

VI Application of Destruction Before Launch (DBL) Factor

In the 45th Policy Committee meeting of 9 December the Deputy Director of Strategic Target Planning, Admiral Parker, presented to General Power the disagreement within the committee regarding the application of destruction before launch factors. Three proposals had been considered:

[

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] ]

integrated in a computer to determine their effects more accurately. (CINCLANT, CINCPAC, Marine Corps, and Navy representatives)

After considerable discussion, in which the wisdom of applying

VII Use of the Weather/Darkness Factor

Another issue on which it had not been possible to achieve agreement was whether or not SIOP planners should use a weather/darkness factor in the calculation of success of delivery at the bomb release time. It had been the subject of a formal dissent by CINCLANT at the presentation to the SecDef of SIOP-62, and it remained a source of disagreement during consideration of procedures for use in SIOP-63 planning. Neither the CINCLANT nor CINCPAC representative believed the factor used in SIOP-62 was valid and argued that it should not be used in the next plan. Essentially, the procedure had been to take a mathematical average between the probable assurance of delivery of a visual sortie when conditions were favorable (i.e., daylight and good weather at target) and the probable assurance of delivery when conditions were prohibitive (i.e., at night and with bad weather at the target). CINCLANT's position, supported by CINCPAC, was clearly and amply stated in the policy committee meetings of late summer and early fall, and in several

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memos for the Deputy Director. This disagreement was presented to the Director in the Policy Committee meeting of 28 August. He recognized the problem as a very difficult one involving judgment factors that could not be proved one way or the other. He felt that a completely acceptable factor was impossible because of the many variables involved, but he also criticized the CINCLANT's position as trying to improve the "bookkeeping" by eliminating it. He believed it better to err on the side of being pessimistic about our capability and to plan accordingly. General Power deferred his decision until JCS guidance was received in October. It definitely stipulated that this factor would be used. As to the question of how it would be used, General Power, in the Policy Committee meeting of 9 December, decided in favor of using the factor as applied in SIOP-62. ~~(TS NOFORN)~~

VIII Definition of Alert Force

The Policy Committee, in its meeting of 8 December, split on the definition of [ ]



IX CINCPAC's Nonconcurrency with DBL Factors and Force Application Sequence

On 3 January 1962 a message from CINCPAC to DSTP listed his objections to the use of DBL factors in force application and the proposed sequence of force application. <sup>85</sup> [

procedures.

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## EXPLANATION OF TERMS

Alert Force	That portion of a unified and specified commanders committed or coordinated force which in his judgment will be able to launch under conditions of tactical warning. (U)
Non-Alert Force	That portion of the SIOP force other than the alert force. (U)
Reserve Force	That portion of the committed force not scheduled for the initial launch under any attack option. (U)
Residual Reserve	Forces not available for assignment to specified alert or non-alert missions, e.g., aircraft in depots or modification, which can be prepared in a relatively short time, plus any missiles not on launchers at time of execution, and possible Polaris submarines and aircraft carriers either in U.S. ports or a significant distance from launch areas. (U)
Strategic Warning	Time to permit positioning and preparation of all forces to accomplish war sorties. (U)
Tactical Warning	The reaction time available under conditions of surprise attack for launch of forces. (U)
Weapon System	A missile or aircraft (or combination of both) with weapon(s) and all related equipment, including supporting facilities which contribute <u>directly</u> to the readying, launching, and delivery of a weapon to the target. (S)
Launch Reliability	The probability of a delivery vehicle launching as planned, excluding effects of enemy offensive action. (S)
Inflight Reliability	The probability of a launched delivery vehicle reaching the Bomb Release Line (BRL) or target area, excluding effects of enemy defensive action. (S)
Weapon Reliability	The probability of a delivered weapon detonating; includes release, arming, fuzing, duds, and human error. (S)

Alert Readiness  
Reliability

The probability of a weapon system committed to the SIOP alert reacting to an execution order (applies to missiles only). (e)

Weapon System  
Reliability

The probability of a delivery vehicle delivering a weapon which detonates as planned, excluding effects of enemy action. (U)

(1) Weapon system reliability is the product of alert readiness reliability times launch reliability times inflight reliability times weapon reliability (applies to missiles only). (U)

(2) Alert weapon system reliability is the product of alert readiness reliability times launch reliability times inflight reliability times weapon reliability (applies to missiles only). (U)

Aircraft  
Reliability

The probability of an aircraft delivering a weapon to the BRL, excluding effects of enemy action. It is the product of launch reliability and inflight reliability which includes refueling reliability when applicable. (e)

Damage Expectancy

Probability of achieving a given degree of damage, considering all operational factors (including pre-launch survivability) and weapons effects. It is the average of damage that would be achieved if the attack were run many times. (S)

Force Generation Levels

Sub-plans of each attack option which deal with timing problems inherent in changing numbers of generated and launchable delivery vehicles. Force generation levels provide the JCS with the capability of launching the optimum strike force consistent with the preparation time. (S)

Pre-launch Survivability

The probability that a delivery vehicle will survive an enemy attack under an established condition of warning. (U)

Tasks

Specific undertakings to achieve JCS designated objectives. (S)

## FOOTNOTES

1. Stewart Alsop, "Kennedy's Grand Strategy," Saturday Evening Post, Vol 235, No. 13, 31 Mar 62, p 11, 14; See also N. Y. Times, 26 May 61 (Address by the President to Congress) and Presidential Message to Congress on the Defense Budget, 23 Mar 61.
2. SecDef's speech to the NATO Ministerial Meeting, 5 May 62, in JCS Memo 2305/859, 11 May 62, B-83265.
3. Annex to Appendix to JCS 2056/208, 27 Jan 61, "Extract from Memo for President from Special Assistant to President for Science and Technology," 25 Nov 60, B-78569. Commenting at length on the Histiakowsky report, the DSTP felt its conclusions reflected "... a lack of complete familiarization with procedures employed by JSTPS." The CINCLANT representative to the JSTPS was in essential agreement with the report. (Memo for the JCS, from Gen T. S. Power, DSTP, "Methodology Study," 23 Jun 61, with 1 Atch, B-79481.)
4. Memo for the Chairman, JCS, from SecDef Thomas Gates, "Strategic Target Planning," 20 Jan 61, Encls to JCS 2056/208, 27 Jan 61.
5. Encl A to JCS 2056/229, 13 Mar 61. See also Encl K, "Background . . . of Planning Factors in SIOP," to J-3 Ops 603/1, 8 Mar 62, "Report . . . on Areas to be Investigated . . . .," B-78558.
6. Msg, JCS 987018, JCS to Chairman, JCS, et al., "JCS NSTL and SIOP-62 Approval," 9 Dec 60. See Appendix B to JCS 2056/194.
7. Encl B to Report by the J-3 to the JCS, "Comments and Recommendations as to Areas to be Investigated for Possible Change in Developing the Next NSTL/SIOP," 8 Mar 61. These comments and recommendations were solicited by JCS 2056/194. Army comments (Encl to JCS 2056/204), Navy Comments (Encl to JCS 2056/197 and to JCS 2056/227), AF Comments (Encl to JCS 1716/87), Marine Corps comments (Encl to JCS 2056/220), CINCAL comments see JCS 2056/210, CINCLANT comments (Encl to JCS 2056/206), CINCPAC comments see JCS 2056/211, CINCNELM comments see JCS 2056/209, CINCSAC comments see JCS 2056/214, DSTP comments (Encl to JCS 2056/207), B-78558.
8. Memo for JCS, from Gen T. S. Power, DSTP, "JCS NSTL/SIOP-63," 16 Jan 61, Ex 1.
9. Msg, DSTP 1168, DSTP to JCS, 14 Feb 61.

10. Msg, JCS 995685, from JCS (Dir of Joint Staff) to Gen Power et al., 9 May 61, B-79155, Ex 2. Originally sent as Note by Secretaries (5 May 61) to JCS on "Policy Guidance on Plans for Central War," referred to J-5 for comment and recommendations as matter of priority, JCS 2101/427, 8 May 61, B-79162.
11. Msg, DSTP B-79315, from DSTP to JCS, n.s., 31 Jun 61, Ex 3; Msg, C B-79347, SAC to JCS, n.s., 5 Jun 61, Ex 4; Msg, CINCPAC to JCS, 2 Jun 61, B-79324; Msg, CINCLANT to JCS, 5 Jun 61, B-79359; JCSM 406-61, 15 Jun 61, B-79491, forwarded with Appendices A-G.
12. JCSM 406-61, 15 Jun 61, B-79491, forwarded with Appendices A-G; Msg, DSTP B-79315, from DSTP to JCS, n.s., 31 Jun 61, Ex 3.
13. JCSM 406-61, 15 Jun 61, B-79491, forwarded with Appendices A-G.
14. The following documents reflecting DSTP's position are enclosed as exhibits: Memo for the JCS, from Gen T. S. Power, DSTP, "Methodology Study," w/1 Atch, 23 Jun 61, B-79481, Ex 5; Staff Study, "Damage Criteria," prepared by NSTL Div, 3 Jun 61, B-79366, and Staff Study, "Assurance Criteria," 3 Jun 61, B-79365, both in Memo for JCS, from Gen T. S. Power, DSTP, "JSTPS Studies, 13 Jun 61, B-79367, Ex 6; Ltr, Gen T. S. Power, DSTP, to JCS, "Improvements of NSTL/SIOP," w/1 Atch, 3 May 61, B-79107; Msg, DSTP to JCS, "Expansion of Selected Response to General War," 23 Aug 61, B-79966, Ex 7. These studies were directed by SM-390-61, Memo for DSTP from JCS, "Actions to be Taken . . . Toward Improving the Next NSTL/SIOP," 21 Apr 61.
15. Memo for JCS, from Gen T. S. Power, DSTP, "Methodology Study," 23 Jun 61, w/1 Atch, B-79481, Ex 5.
16. Appendix II, "Comments by CINCLANT Representative on Methodology Study," and Appendix III, "Comments by CINCPAC Representative on Methodology Study," to Memo for the JCS, from Gen T. S. Power; DSTP, "Methodology Study," 23 Jun 61, B-79481, Ex 5.
17. Appendix II, "Comments by CINCLANT Representative on Methodology Study," to above Memo.
18. Appendix III, "Comments by CINCPAC Representative on Methodology Study," to above Memo.
19. Msg, DSTP 1168, DSTP to JCS, 14 Feb 61.
20. See above memo for JCS of 23 Jun 61.
21. Memo for the Record, Maj Gen K. K. Compton, DDO, SAC, "DSTP Presentation to the JCS . . . ," 13 Jul 61.

22. Memo for JCS, from Gen T. S. Power, DSTP, "JCS NSTL/SIOP-63," 16 Jan 61.
23. JSTPS Policy No. 4, "Policy Regarding Maintenance of the Single Integrated Operational Plan," 25 May 61; Memo for DSTP, ". . . Progress Report . . .," 17 Jan 61; Memo for DDSTP, from Maj Gen C. M. Eisenhart, Ch, SIOP Div, "Required Amendment to SIOP-62," 30 Mar 61; Msg, DSTP 2704, personal Power to Adm Felt (CINCPAC) and Adm Dennison (CINCLANT), n.s., 8 Apr 61; Msg, 61-25 JCSLG to JCS, "Thirty-second Weekly Activity Report," 14 Apr 61; Memo for Adm Parker from Capt S. E. Ruehlow, USN, "SIOP Div Status Report Week Ending 24 Jun 61," 26 Jun 61; Memo for JCS, from Gen T. S. Power, DSTP, "Summary of Changes #3 and #4 to JCS SIOP-62," 28 Nov 61, B-80942; Memo for JCS, from Gen T. S. Power, DSTP, "Summary of Changes #3 and #4 to JCS SIOP-62," 28 Nov 61, B-80942; Memo for JCS, from Gen T. S. Power, DSTP, "Summary of Change #5," 9 May 62, B-82788.
24. Briefing, "Status of War Game for SIOP-62," presented by Col E. A. McDonald, SIOP Div and Chief of War Game, 5 Jan 61; Minutes of the 23rd Policy Committee Meeting, 13 Mar 61, 25 Mar 61; Minutes of the 24th Policy Committee Meeting, 20 Mar 61, 31 Mar 61; Minutes of the 25th Policy Committee Meeting, 24 Mar 61, and 27 Mar 61, 5 Apr 61; Minutes of the 26th Policy Committee Meeting, 7 Apr 61, 18 Apr 61; Memo for DDSTP, from Gen T. S. Power, DSTP, "Decision on Policy Committee Disagreement Regarding War Game Red Team Assumptions with Respect to Play of Red Versus Polaris Submarines," 7 Apr 61; Minutes of 36th Policy Committee Meeting, 6 Jul 61, 7 Jul 61.
25. Memo for Gen Power, from Col W. J. Crumm, USAF Service Representative, "Comments on CNO's War Game of SIOP-62," 30 Aug 61, B-80046; Msg, DSTP B-80120, DSTP to JCS, "Conclusions on Study of CNO Report," 7 Sep 61, B-80102.
26. Msg, DSTP B-79834, DSTP to JCS, n.s., 7 Aug 61.
27. Msg, B-79887, DSTP to JCS, "Hand War Games," 12 Aug 61. When in Nov the newly formed Joint War Games Control Group (JCS) sought material relating to the SIOP-62 war game, for use in an evaluation of post-attack capabilities of the U.S. and the Sino-Soviet Bloc, it was told that all material relating to "Red" (Soviet) and "Blue" (U.S.) SIOPs had been destroyed. (Memo for Chief, JCSLG, from Brig Gen W. R. Calhoun, Dir JWCG, "JWCG Post-Attack Capabilities Study," 6 Nov 61, B-80875; IOM, DSTP to Ch, JCSLG, "JWCG Post-Attack Capabilities Study," 28 Nov 61.)
28. Msg, CR 1072, CNO to JSTPS, "Simulation Investigation SIOP-62," 9 Aug 61.



29. Msg, JCS 1118, from Gen Lemnitzer (Chairman JCS) to Gen Power, 12 Aug 61, B-79894; Msg, JCS 1317, JCS to CINCSAC, 30 Aug 61, B-80033.
30. Msg, JCS 1318, JCS to CINCSAC, 30 Aug 61, B-80032.
31. Msg, JCS 1317, JCS to CINCSAC, 30 Aug 61, B-80033.
32. JCSM 1261-61, "Policy on War Gaming of Joint Plans," 22 Nov 61.
33. Ibid.
34. JSTPS Technical Memorandum 62-3, Jan 62, "An Investigation of the Influence of Damage Before Launch Factors Upon SIOP Effectiveness," B-80796; JSTPS Technical Memorandum 62-4, "Continuation of Damage Before Launch Study," 31 Jan 62, B-82064.
35. Msg, JCS 4233, JCS to DSTP, "Policy on War Gaming of Joint Plans," 26 Apr 62, B-82972.
36. Msg, JD 0188, JSTPS to JCS, "Policy on War Gaming of Joint Plans," May 62.
37. Briefing, Capt R. F. Fuller, USM, "Considerations Relative to the Planned HSTL Maintenance Procedures," Atch 3 to Minutes of Policy Committee Meeting 22, 6 Mar 61.
38. Encl K to J-3 Ops 603/1, 8 Mar 61, "Report by J-3 to JCS on Areas to be Investigated . . . ," B-78558.
39. Memo for the Record, Maj Gen K. K. Compton, Dep DO, SAC, "DSTP Presentation to the JCS . . . ," 13 Jul 61.
40. Msg, JCS DA 999457, JCS to DSTP, 25 Jul 61.
41. Msg, 61-60, JCSLG to JCS, "61st Weekly Activity Report," 3 Nov 61.
42. JCSM 1162-61, "Guidance for Preparation of SIOP-63," 27 Oct 61, B-80720.
43. Ibid.
44. Ibid.
45. Ibid.
46. Ibid.
47. Ibid.

48. Atch, "Principle Differences Between JCS Guidance for SIOP-63 and SIOP-62," Memo for DSIP, from DDSIP, "Visit by Gen Dean's [Dir J-3 Joint Staff, JCS] Party 2-3 Apr 62," 6 Apr 62, B-82754.
49. Briefing, "SIOP-63 Status Report," to JCS by JCSLG, 5 Jan 62. This estimate proved correct: 4 months for SIOP-62, 8 months for SIOP-63.
50. Msg, DSIP 3372, JSTPS to JCS, "JCS SIOP Development Schedule," 3 Nov 61; Memo for DDSIP, from Capt S. E. Ruehlow, Dep Ch, SIOP Div, ". . . Status Report . . . 5 Jan 62," 8 Jan 62.
51. Msg, 61-60, JCSLG to JCS, "61st Weekly Activity Report," 3 Nov 61; Memo, DDSIP to DSIP, ". . . Progress Report . . . 10 Nov 61," 15 Nov 61; Memo for Ch, NSTL and SIOP Divs, from Vice Admiral E. N. Parker, DDSIP, "Preparation for the Development of SIOP-63," 17 Nov 61; Final Report, "Conference on Procedures for Developing SIOP-63, Offutt AFB, 11-15 Dec 61," prep by Col J. M. Philpott, Ch, NSTL Div, B-82077; See also Appendix II of this history for a discussion of General Power's resolution of disagreements arising in the Policy Committee. A resume of differences was sent to the JCS on 9 Jun 62, see Ex 8.
52. JSTPS Planning Manual, 15 Mar 62, B-82430, pp 5, 6, 8, 9-10, 11-12.
53. Briefing, "National Strategic Target List," by Col J. M. Philpott, Ch, NSTL Div, to JCS, 18 Jun 62, B-83834, Ex 9.
54. JSTPS Planning Manual, 15 Mar 62, B-82430, p 13.
55. Briefing, "SIOP-63 Force Structure," Col E. A. McDonald, to JCS, 18 Jun 62, B-83668, Ex 10.
56. Ibid.
57. JSTPS Planning Manual, 15 Mar 62, B-82430, pp 24-27, 13-14, 92; Memo, VAdm R. L. Johnson, DDSIP to DSIP, ". . . Progress Report . . . 12 Jan 62," 18 Jan 62; Memo for DSIP, from VAdm R. L. Johnson, DDSIP, "Force Application for SIOP-63," 22 Jan 62, B-81942, Ex 11; Briefing, "SIOP-63 Force Structure," Col E. A. McDonald, DSIPPM, 18 Jun 62, B-83668, Ex 10.
58. JSTPS Planning Manual, 15 Mar 62, B-82430, pp 98-100.
59. Ibid., pp 101-102.
60. Ibid., pp 108, 109, 110, 111; Briefing, "Third Status Briefing," JCSLG to JCS, 2 May 62; Memo for DSIP, from DDSIP, ". . . Progress Report . . . 25 May 62," 31 May 62.
61. Memo for JD et al., from VAdm R. L. Johnson, DDSIP, "Status Briefings During the Laydown of SIOP-63," 11 Jan 62.

62. Memo for DSTP, from Brig Gen W. R. Peers, Ch, JCSLG, "Questions and Comments by Joint Chiefs of Staff . . . ," 6 Jun 62, B-83460.
63. Briefing, JCSLG (Brig Gen Peers), to JCS, "Third Status Briefing," 2 May 62.
64. See p 4.
65. JCSM 1162-61, "Guidance for Preparation of SIOP-63," 27 Oct 61, B-80720.
66. Briefing, JCSLG to JCS, "Second Status Briefing," 16 Mar 62.
67. Briefing, "Fourth Status Report," JCSLG (Brig Gen Peers) to JCS, 31 May-1 Jun 62.
68. Briefing, JCSLG to JCS, "Fourth Status Briefing," 31 May 62.
69. Briefing, "Fallout Constraints," Col C. E. Becker, Ch, Tactics Br, NSTL Div, to JCS, 19 Jun 62, B-83661, Ex 12. An analysis of casualties and fatalities, resulting from implementation of SIOP-63 (blast, terminal, initial nuclear radiation, and fallout effects) is contained as Ex 14.
70. Msg, JCS 5083, to CofS USA et al., 21 Jun 62, B-83629.
71. Memo, VAdm R. L. Johnson, DDSTP, to DSTP, ". . . Progress Report . . . 22 Jun 62," 27 Jun 62; Official approval came by Msg, JCS 5083, to CofS USA et al., 21 Jun 62, B-83629.
72. Memo for Chairman, JCS, from SecDef R. S. McNamara, "SIOP-63," 13 Jul 62, JCS 2056/335, B-83916.
73. Briefing, "Flexibility Achieved," by Col E. A. McDonald, Ch, DSTPPM, 19 Jun 62, B-83668, Ex 10.
74. See p 6; Also, Msg, DSTP B-79315, JSTPS to JCS, 31 May 61, B-79315, Ex 3; Msg, DSTP B-79966, JSTPS to JCS, 23/1530Z Aug 61, Ex 8; Memo for Gen Power, from VAdm R. L. Johnson, DDSTP, "Visit by General Dean and Party, 2-3 Apr," 6 Apr 62, B-82754, Ex 13.
75. Statement by SecDef Robert McNamara Before the House Armed Services Committee on FY 64-68 Defense Program and 1964 Defense Budget, 30 Jan 63.
76. Interview, Robert Kipp, Historian, with VAdm E. N. Parker, DDSTP, 29 Dec 61, on tape.
77. Interview, Robert Kipp, Historian, with VAdm R. L. Johnson, JDD, 4 Apr 63, on tape.

78. Hist of JSTPS, Background and Preparation of SIOP-62, pp 14, 15, B-82707.
79. Ibid., pp 15-17.
80. Ibid.
81. Interview, Robert Kipp, Historian, with Capt J. J. Reichel, Asst Sec, JS, 28 Mar 63; JSTPS Joint Table of Distribution, Part 1b, 14 Jun 61, in "JSTPS Manpower Program FY 64 thru FY 69," n.d., prepared by JS, JSTPS, Ex 15; See also "Summary of Turnover of Key Individuals With JSTPS," Ex 16.
82. Ibid.
83. Interview, Robert Kipp, Historian, with VAdm R. L. Johnson, JDD, 4 Apr 63, on tape.
84. Memo for DDSTP, from RAdm Paul Masterson, CINCPACRep, "SIOP Factors," 4 Aug 61, Atch 2 to Minutes of Policy Committee Meeting, 4 Aug 61; Memo for DDSTP, from RAdm John Hyland, CINCLANTRep, "Application of Weather/Darkness Factor for SIOP-63," 4 Aug 61, Atch 3 to Minutes of 38th Policy Committee Meeting, 4 Aug 61; Memo for DDSTP, from RAdm John J. Hyland, CINCLANTRep, "CINCLANT Position on Application of Weather/Darkness Factor in SIOP Planning," 8 Aug 61, Atch 10 to Minutes of Policy Committee Meeting, 10 Aug 61.
85. Msg, CINCPAC to DSTP, "SIOP Planning," 3/2317Z Nov 62.
86. Msg, JDD O10-S, JSTPS to CINCPAC, 12 Jan 62.